

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 05327 021532Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 021447Z AUG 76 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5476

S E C R E T JIDDA 5327

NODIS

STADIS

FOR ASST SEC ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR PORTER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, SA, US

SUBJECT: SIDEWINDERS FOR SAUDI ARABIA

REF (A) STATE 190466, (B) STATE 190450

1. I AGREE WITH SECRETARY THAT WE SHOULD INFORM SAUDIS THAT WE JUDGE IT BEST TO SUBMIT PART OF SIDEWINDER SALE TO CONGRESS NOW AND THE BALANCE AFTER THE ELECTION (REF A) RATHER THAN ASKING THEM TO CHOOSE BETWEEN OPTIONS. TO MAKE THEM CHOOSE WOULD BE IN EFFECT ASKING THEM TO MAKE A JUDGMENT ON HOW THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION CAN BEST MANAGE ITS RELATIONS WITH THE CONGRESS--A JUDGMENT THEY ARE HARDLY IN A BETTER POSITION TO MAKE THAN WE ARE.

2. IF THE DEPARTMENT CONCURS, DRAWING ON REFTELS, I WILL INFORM PRINCE SULTAN THAT IT IS STILL OUR INTENTION TO FULFILL THE TRANSACTION FOR 2000 MISSILES BUT THAT IT IS ONLY A QUESTION OF TIMING TO AVOID GIVING CRITICS OF THE SAUDI-US MILITARY RELATIONSHIP THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERIOUSLY HINDER EXECUTION OF THE PROGRAM.
PORTER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Authority: ShawDG
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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